

COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

April 2015 Pima Regions



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

February and March Outreach Activities

Presentation: Pueblo High School Early Childhood Education JTED classes*

February 3: 85713

Presented information about the importance of Early Childhood, First Things First and our partners to over 100 students.

Event: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Train the Trainer***

February 9: 85713

ACEs Train the Trainer Professional Development, 110 attendees. FTF co-sponsored with UW, ESBF, UofA, and SAzEYC.

Presentation: Mealtime Connections***

February 10: 85716

Event: Literacy Night at Carrillo Elementary School***

February 10: 85701

Presentation: ASU School of Social Work***

February 11: 85705

Presented to class SWG 682: Community Participation Strategies

Event: Arizona Public Media Community Interactive: Education**

February 12: 85711

Amanda Kucich (United Way, Collective Impact STRIVE) sat on the panel. Many people asked questions about ECE via social media.

See <https://community.azpm.org/interactive/> for details.

One on One: Pima Partnership Academy, Lisa Long*

February 18: 85705

Event: United Ways Business Breakfast**

February 24: 85711

The event was attended by 400 people. PYT Champion and RPC Member Hector Youtsey was honored as this year's Media Champion for Children by Early Childhood Action Subcommittee, a part of First Focus on Kids.

Presentation: St. Andrews Presbyterian Preschool, Corey Planer*

March 4: 85704

I met Corey Planer at the Sunshine School/ Oro Valley Chamber Open House Event. She is the Director of St. Andrews, a preschool in North Tucson.

One on One: Pima County Health Department, Meghan Shillington*

March 10: 85714

Speakers Training: Early Childhood Everyday, Pima South Coordination of Services (funded and unfunded partners)*

March 10: 85614

Networking Meeting: United Way, First Focus on Kids (FFK)**

March 11: 85709

Six ECE Champions reported having met with Jonathon Rothschild, Mayor of Tucson, to propose a sales tax to fund Early Childhood in Pima County. The Mayor has agreed. The group is working on the next steps.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

4/17: Please join us for the Nurse Family Partnership Graduation at the Tucson Children's Museum
200 S. 6th Avenue, 85701
5:30-7:30pm

4/27: Please join us for the Nurse Family Partnership Graduation at Casa de los Niños
1101 N. 4th Avenue, 85705
5:00-7:00pm

Engagement Support:**

A special thank you to our partners who are sharing Educational Reinforcement Items (ERI's) on our behalf:

FEBRUARY

- Jessica Lubbering, Reachout Women's Center
- Jennifer Atteberry-Peirpont, CDO Preschool and CDO ECE Program
- Jess Salyers, TMC Pediatric Therapy
- Martha Portilla, AZ Kith and Kin Providers
- Desiree Cook, Iamyou360

FEBRUARY BENCHMARKS :

4 Events
5 Networking or 1:1 Meetings
3 Presentations
1 Speakers Training
7 Referrals
18 Actions Taken by Supporters or Champions

Please note: Community Outreach Coordinators work to increase awareness of ECE and to move supporters of the ECE movement to **Take Action** on behalf of ECE.

*Referral

**Action Taken by a Supporter or Champion

www.FirstThingsFirstAZ.gov

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Dad and Me

Story written by Lourdes Medrano

Samara Luque hesitated at first, but with her dad's encouragement, the toddler soon began clapping her hands and swaying to the music. She was among dozens of other youngsters whose own fathers cheered them onto the dance floor during a Dad & Me evening at Ocotillo Learning Center.

Dads and kids spent an hour playing, dancing and singing together. But what the little ones didn't know is that spending time with their fathers, as they did on this occasion, is considered a key factor in the social-emotional development of children.

The event was intended to help father and child strengthen bonds while having fun together, said Joan Katz, Parents as Teachers coordinator. The program, which is partly funded by First Things First, organized Dad & Me.

"When dads are involved with their children, kids have better peer relationships, and they stay in school and graduate," Katz said.

By the time the event ended, most of the boys and girls looked content and worn out. Samara, wearing a red bow in her long, dark hair, looked sleepy in the arms of her father, Jesus.

"She's been in the program since she was born," he said of his 2-year-old. "Tonight was a lot of fun."

Nearby, a bashful Hiram Urías hid behind his dad's legs. "He's a little shy when he's in a new environment," explained his dad, Marcos.

The father said he knows that being involved in Hiram's life will give his son an edge and he intends to continue doing so after his boy starts school, just as he has with his two older sons. "By being involved in their education and activities, I've learned a lot about my children," he said. "There's trust between us."

Dad & Me activities encourage interaction between parent and child while at the same time offering an opportunity to share educational information with parents.

"They're understanding that it's important to read to their children," Katz said of the fathers. "If they go out and throw the ball around, come in and afterwards read a book together."

Dad & Me, which is held several times during the school year, has grown steadily since it began in 2009. Just three fathers showed with their children back then, Katz recalled.

Now it's not unusual for the event to draw more than 60 people, she said. Some 30 fathers and their children were at Ocotillo, and they all left with a message that resonated throughout the hour.

"Dads are important from the start."



Samara and her father Jesus sing along at the Dad & Me event put on by Sunnyside Parents as Teachers.

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February and March Outreach Activities

Event: Greater Tucson Leadership and Hispanic Leadership Institute: Education Day**

March 13: Pima Community College, 85705

The ECE portion of the day was populated by 10 ECE champions working in: family support, preschools and programs in various districts, childcare, infant/ toddler mental health, professional development, parent education, early intervention (UA speech and hearing), early literacy, and home visitation. A huge thank you to ECE Champions **Fania Bevill, Kylee Blue, Anne Clifford, Rudy Caudillo, Heather Friedman, David Higuerra, Dan McDonald, Barbara Kiernan, Jenny Volpe and Ekna Zamora-Rehm** who shared their work and how it relates to the betterment of our community with the class of 85 up and coming community leaders.

Event: Tucson Festival of Books**

March 14th and 15th: University of Arizona, 85719

Grantees from 5 different organizations volunteered to staff the FTF table and hand out books, early literacy guides, playbooks, helpline info, and their program information to attendees. The festival saw approx. 150,000 attendees over the two days. We passed out about 800 books. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who made this weekend possible!

Presentation: Alpha Kappa Gamma, Nancy Magelli***

March 19: 85704

Event: Be Safe Saturday**

March 19: Tucson Medical Center, 85712

Champion Jessica Mitchell handed out FTF Helpline Cards, Parent Kit cards, and Playbooks at an event attended by about 1200 families.

Thank you Jessica!

Speakers Training: University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Program*

March 23: 85719

Presentation: Pima County Interfaith Council*

March 26: 85719

Engagement Support: Children's Action Alliance: Southern Arizona Advisory Committee Meeting**

March 27: 85716

Champion David Higuera invited Rep. David Bradley to speak about the budget and to receive community feedback. Champions from 6 partner agencies were in attendance.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Please share the Success Stories from February and March. If you'd like to see a program in action yourself let us know, we will arrange a visit!

April is the Month of the Young Child, share a message about the importance of the early years:

About 90% of a child's critical brain development happens before age 5. The job of helping kids succeed starts the day they are born.

Engagement Support:**

A special thank you to our partners who are sharing Educational Reinforcement Items (ERI's) on our behalf:

MARCH

- Jessica Borbon, Easter Seals Blake Foundation, Home Visitation
- Adriana Huerta, Sunnyside Parents as Teachers
- Darlene Whitmore, Pima Partnership Academy

MARCH BENCHMARKS :

5 Events
4 Networking or 1:1 Meetings
4 Presentations
3 Speakers Trainings
9 Referrals
11 Actions Taken by Supporters or Champions

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Parenting education helps teens stay in school and their kids safe

Story written by Lourdes Medrano

Viviana Pardini was a freshman in high school when she found herself pregnant and with little knowledge about how to raise a child. Now a senior with a 2-year-old daughter, she has picked up a plethora of parenting skills through a program that aims to keep young parents in school.

"I've learned a lot," the 18-year-old said.



Viviana Pardini and Myrna Chavez talk about creating safe environments for infants and young children to live and learn in.

Alissa Gopp, director of the Teenage Parent Program at Marana High School, said that in addition to learning about child development, health, and discipline, young mothers and mothers-to-be also get valuable education from Parents as Teachers facilitators such as Myrna Chavez.

Chavez joins the eight teens enrolled in the program's required parenting class twice a month, reinforcing the messages they hear in the class while their children are cared for on campus.

"It makes it that much more powerful that they're hearing it from someone that they see as a professional in the community," Gopp said of Chavez, a parent educator based in the Marana Unified School District. "It makes what we're saying and teaching them that much stronger."

During one of her visits, Chavez talked to the teens about keeping kids safe by evaluating their environment for potential hazards and developing strategies in case of an emergency. She also distributed handouts with tips on how to safety-proof the home to prevent accidents, including storing cleaning products in a locked cabinet and keeping electrical outlets covered with plastic caps.

"One of the things that I talk a lot about with parents is

choking hazards," Chavez said. "Where would we find choking hazards?"

"The floor!" several moms responded in unison.

Indeed, Chavez told the moms. "Remember that your kids learn through their mouth, the tiny ones, that's how they're learning. They're going to pick up those things and put them in their mouth. So we always want to be conscious about those things on the floor."

The students also learned about car safety and took home a list of available community resources. For Pardini, the lessons Chavez brings to parenting class have been invaluable.

For example, she had never considered the dangers that an open toilet or a stove oven could pose to a curious child. She now knows that both can be secured with safety locks to keep kids out of harm's way.

"It makes you aware; it makes you think about things you never think about," she said.

And keeping her daughter, Yazlin Perez, safe is a top priority for Pardini as she focuses on finishing high school and forging a better future for both.

Lisette DeMars

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